

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

USARBCO FORT BUCKNER

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COMFLEACTS

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SUBJECT: CANDIDATES FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION (U).

1. SUMMARY. CONFUSION EXISTS IN BOTH THE CONSERVATIVE AND REFORMIST CAMPS CONCERNING SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NEXT YEARS UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. AS OF NEW, THE INCUMBENT REFORMIST KYAN APPEARS LIKELY TO END UP AGAIN A CANDIDATE AND AGAIN A

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VICTOR. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL CONSERVATIVES WERE SHOCKED OUT OF THEIR SLEEP IN EARLY SEPTEMBER WHEN THE LDP IN TOKYO, APPARENTLY WITH THE CONSENT OF OKINAWA'S LDP DIETMAN, ANNOUNCED THE SELECTION OF IE TOXOO AS THE LDP' OKINAWA CANDIDATE IN NEXT YEARS UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. SURPRISED LOCAL OBSERVERS HAD TO DIG DEEP INTO THEIR BIO FILES TO LEARN THAT THE OKINAWA BORN IE IS CHIEFSOF THE JAPAN NATIONAL

RAILWAYS KYUSHU BUREAU. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONCEIVABLY MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO SHOCK LOCAL CONSERVATIVES INTO GETTING BEHIND A LOCAL

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CANDIDATE. IF SO, IT HAS HAD AT LEAST PARTIAL SUCCESS. DIVIDED

LOCAL CONSERVATIVES QUICKLY UNITED IN SAYING NO TO THE IE CANDIDACY AND ANNOUNCING THEIR INTENT TO SELECT A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATE. SPECULATION SO FAR CENTERS ON OTA SCOCHI AND KUAE CHOKO EITHER OF WHOM WOULD BE THE UNDERDOG AGAINST INCUMBENT KYAN SHINEI IF THE LATTER CONTINUED TO ENJOY UNITED REFORMIST SUPPORT.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, KYAN HAS ENCOUNTERED TROUBLE BECAUSE OF KENROKYO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE JINT STRUGGLE COUNCIL AND FUKKIKYO. KYAN, LIKE YARA, WHO IS HIS LONG TIME MENTOR, HAS RELIED ON THESE REFORMISTS COALITION ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORT, ESCHEWING DIRECT LINKS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES. AFTER

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FUKKIKYO SUGGESTED THAT KYAN MIGHT NOT RUN WITHOUT UNITED REFORMIST SUPPORT, KENROKYO CLARIFIED ITS POSITION BY STATING THAT ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM REGULAR COALITION ACTIVITIES DID NOT IMPLY THAT IT WOULD NOT COOPERATE SELECTIVELY WITH OTHER GROUPS

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IN SUPPORT OF REFORMIST CANDIDATES AT ELECTION TIME. KENROKYO WENT ON TO ANNOUNCE ITS SUPPORT OF KYAN AS AN UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATE.

4. WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS YET THAT THE REFORMISTS WILL SPLIT THEIR VOTES BY RUNNING COMPETING CANDIDATES, A MOVE WHICH WOULD PROBABLY ENSURE CONSERVATIVE VICTORY. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT REFORMISTS WILL TRY TO FIND SOME WAY OF SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENT KYAN CANDIDACY BECAUSE HE IS PERSONALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE SOCIALISTS AND THE SOCIALIST MASSES, AND THE COMMUNISTS, ON THEIR PART, NOW STRONGLY FAVOR JOINT ACTION. RIVALRY AMONG THE REFORMISTS SEEMS CERTAIN TO DEEPEN, HOWEVER, AND WILL HINDER IN ANY EVENT THE KIND OF CLOSE COOPERATIVE SUPPORT KYAN HAS ENJOYED IN THE PAST.

5. THE LOSS OF THE JOINT STRUGGLE COUNCIL MYSTIQUE COULD BE SIGNIFICANT ALTHOUGH THIS IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE. THE COALITION HAS CARRIED A CAREFULLY NURTURED SENSE OF SUPRA-PARTISAN OKINAWANISM PERSONIFIED IN YARA. SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE COALITION WHOLE MAY INDEED BE GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS POLITICAL PARTY PARTS AND

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AND THAT EVEN VIGOROUS SUPPORT UNDER SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTY
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LABELS WILL LOSE SOME OF THE EFFECTIVENESS ENJOYED UNDER THE JOINT STRUGGLE COUNCIL.

6. COMMENT. IN SPITE OF THE UNCERTAINTY PRODUCED BY ALL THIS HOWEVER, KYAN WILL PROBABLY REMAIN FAVORED TO WIN. TO REVERSE THIS WILL REQUIRE
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YET UNSEEN VIGOR AND UNITY ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EMERGING REFORMISTS DIVISIONS.

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